

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date:

Permit No.: MI0059945

Facility Designated Name: Aquila Resources Inc-Back Forty Project

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Water Resources Division (WRD), proposes to issue a permit to Aquila Resources Inc. for the Back Forty Project facility located at River Road, Stephenson, MI 49887, in Menominee County. The applicant proposes to discharge treated mine drainage, treated wastewater, and treated storm water to the Menominee River. The applicant proposes to develop a polymetallic mineral deposit that will include an open pit mine, beneficiation facilities, and tailings management facilities. The ores will be processed for zinc, copper, silver, and gold.

This draft permit authorizes an increased loading of pollutants to the Menominee River, which will lower the water quality with respect to certain parameters. The permitted discharge shall not lower the existing water quality of the receiving water below WQS. In accordance with R 323.1098 of the WQS, the applicant submitted an Antidegradation Demonstration. The WRD proposes that the applicant's Antidegradation Demonstration, based on information required by Subrule (4) of R 323.1098, shows that lowering of water quality is necessary to support the identified important social and economic development in the area. This is solely for purposes of satisfying state water quality regulations and is not intended to supplant local requirements, including land use or zoning laws. It is not, and should not be construed as, a finding by the WRD that the proposed development meets local requirements or ordinances. In addition to the proposed permit, the WRD is proposing to accept the Antidegradation Demonstration as adequate.

The DEQ will hold a consolidated public hearing on the Aquila Resources Back Forty Project at INSERT LOCATION & DATE

Comments or objections to the draft permit and proposed decision regarding the Antidegradation Demonstration received by INSERT DATE, will be considered in the final decision to issue the permit. Persons desiring information regarding the draft permit, Antidegradation Demonstration, procedures for commenting, or the hearing should contact Alvin Lam, Permits Section, WRD, DEQ, P.O. Box 30458, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7958; telephone: 517-284-5597; e-mail: lama@michigan.gov.

Copies of the permit application, public notice, fact sheet, Antidegradation Demonstration, basis for decision memo, and draft permit may be obtained via the Internet at <https://miwaters.deq.state.mi.us> - click on Public Notice Search; or at the WRD's Upper Peninsula District Office located at 1504 West Washington Street, Marquette, MI, 49855; Telephone: 906-228-4853.